the notice of the Government. The effect of the G. O. was to undo the beneficent provisions of the Regulation. There was no justification for thus repealing the Regulation, passed in the Legislative Council, by a G. O. Ever after the Regulation of 1067, the practice of the courts was to award ground value and value of the trees separately.

Dewan.—Generally, with reference to the amount of compensation awarded when lands were acquired, do you contend that the value given to the owners is too low ?

Member.—No, Sir. If the value of the ground and of the trees be given, the compensation will be moderate and, in that case, I have no grievance.

Dewan.—Is there any specific instance in which, by reason of the above order, the compensation awarded fell very low ?

The Member said that there were several instances in which the owners were prejudicially affected. He said that the High Court decided a case in A. S. No. 423 of 1089 after the passing of the G. O., adopting the interpretation contained in it, but without actually referring to it in the judgment, even though there was a prior decision by a Full Bench of the High Court in A. S. 127 of 1076 to the contrary effect. It was in the case of jenmom lands that the greatest hardship resulted by an application of the proceedings, for, if the ground was valued, three-fourths of the compensation went to the Jenmi and if the trees were valued, three-fourths would go to the Kudiyan.

He took the hypothetical case of two persons possessing an acre of ground in the High Ranges, in the mofussil parts and in a town. One of them planted first class cocoanut trees in all the three places, and the other left his holdings fallow. In the High Ranges the former would get Rs. 2,500 as compensation at the rate of Rs. 25 per cocoanut tree, while the latter would get only Rs. 100 as ground value, at Re. 1 per cent. In the mofussil parts, where the ground value might be put at Rs. 25 per cent, both of them would get Rs. 2,500 each, the industrious and the indolent equally. In the town, where the ground value might be put at Rs. 50 per cent, the industrious man would get only Rs. 2,500 while the indolent would get Rs. 5,000. Such was the practical result of the working of the above-said G. O. He therefore prayed that the G. O. might be annulled and the original procedure of separate valuation of land and trees restored.

Dewan's reply.—The G. O does not require any modification.

18. The value charged on forest land.

Mr. S. P. Eaton (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) said that his representation had already formed the subject of a deputation to the Government and it was receiving their favourable consideration. He was of opinion that any barrier such as the present land regulation placed in the way of the development of cultivation of lands would be prejudicial to the best interests of the State itself. The undeveloped resources of a country did not represent wealth. Consequent to the development of cultivation, a very large sum of money was put in circulation, the benefits from which accrued to the State itself and to the various communities resident therein. It was pointed out that the present affluent condition of Mundakayam and Peermade were instances which would go to support his view. The present Regulation, he feared, would absolutely prohibit further development of the planting industry. He hoped that the Government would give the matter their most favourable consideration.

Dewan's reply.—I have been discussing this question with Mr. Stewart and others. I shall consider it again.

(2) FOREST.

19. Desirability of permitting the people of the Tovala taluk to remove fuel and green manure from the adjoining reserved forests on the free pass system.

Mr. S. Lekshminarayana Aiyar (Member, Tovala taluk) said that the people of the taluk were allowed, till recently, to transport fuel from the Veerapuli

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hills at a cost of Re. 1 per ton. That practice was now abolished and they were asked to purchase fuel from the Nagercoil depot at a cost of Rs. 6¼ per ton. The cost to Government in collecting the fuel was about Rs. 4⅛ per ton and the people living near the hills had to cart away the fuel purchased from the depot to the valley of those hills at an additional cost. The forest authorities recently agreed to give them fuel at the depot at Rs. 5 per ton, deducting from the sale price the cart-hire which the people were required to pay in addition. He thought that the gain to the Government was very slight compared with the loss which the people were put to. He therefore prayed that the original permit system might be ordered to be revived.

He also represented that the permission granted to the people to remove green manure from, and to pasture their cattle on, the slopes of the Veerapuli hills had not the desired benefit as the hills lay to the entire north of the taluk and contained very few green manure trees. The Member therefore prayed that the people of the taluk might be permitted on a free pass system to remove green manure and head-loads of fuel from the hills nearest to the habitations of people.

Dewan's reply.—A fuel depot will be opened at Darsanamcope. The other representations of the Member are noted for consideration.

20. Forest administration in Travancore.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the defects of the administration of the forests in Travancore were brought to the notice of the Government during the last three sessions of the Assembly. The representations were, in due course, forwarded to the Conservator for report. On the reports submitted by him, proceedings were issued accepting his views and his reasons without allowing the Members a second voice. The Member expressed as his view that such decisions on the mere reports of the heads of departments would not in general mend matters.

Proceeding to his subject, he said that about one-third of the area of Travancore consisted of reserved forests and reserved lands but the revenue to the Government and the benefits to the people bore no adequate proportion. The scientific conservation of the forests was the most essential thing in the administration of forests. Though there was not efficient conservation in the earlier years, proper precautions were taken to regulate the felling of timber. With that object in view, the Government were insisting on the Conservator from 1070 to have working plans prepared of all the reserved forests. In 1082, *i. e.*, after 12 years, the Shendurni working plan, which was the first of its kind, was sanctioned. A review of the progress of the working plan system in respect of other working circles would be instructive. In the Administration Report of 1084, it was stated that an experienced Ranger was directed to inspect the forests of the Southern Division and that his report was under the consideration of the Conservator when the year closed. In the Report for 1088, it was stated that a working plan report of the Southern Division was prepared in the beginning of 1087 and that the same was under scrutiny by the Conservator. Nothing was known to have been done further till the close of 1090. The Member was at a loss to understand what had become of the report prepared by the Special officer. Again, the preliminary operations for the preparation of a working plan in respect of the sandalwood trees in Anjanad were begun in 1085 but the report was submitted to the Government in 1088 only and was sanctioned. Nothing material was done under the sanctioned plan till the close of 1090. Again, the Report for 1084 stated that working plans in respect of the Kulathupuzha and Yerur Reserves were nearing completion, but nothing further was known about them. In regard to the Malayattur Reserve, the preparation of a working plan was started in 1087 but did not appear to have been completed or sanctioned. Similar tardiness was observable in the preparation of working plans in respect of other working circles also. It was regrettable that, with such a large staff in the department, it was not found possible to submit to Government a single working plan during the years 1082 to 1090. The forests which abounded with all varieties of royal trees were now barren tracts with very little of tree growth. Even in former years, the felling was thought to be excessive as was evident from Mr. Bourdillon's

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